



April 8, 2005



Maximum sentence for firearms offender

A federal judge has sentenced **Peter J. Silver**, 34, of Providence, to ten years in federal prison – the maximum sentence – for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The Rhode Island State Police Violent Fugitive Task Force arrested Silver in August 2002 after finding a gun underneath a bed in a Sheridan Street apartment.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In August 2003, Silver pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government had proof that, on August 1, 2002, Silver had a .40 caliber pistol stashed under a bed when Task Force detectives searched the apartment at 30 Sheridan Street, where he was staying. Silver denied owning the gun but admitted that it had been in his possession.

As part of another investigation, the Task Force had developed information that Silver was in possession of a gun.

Silver has prior convictions for robbery and firearms offenses and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms.

The **Fugitive Task Force** includes investigators from the **State Police**, **Providence Police** and the **U.S. Marshals Service**. The **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** also participated in the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha prosecuted it federally as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

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